

Message Text

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SUBJ: TRAVELING SEMINAR ON 1974 U.S. ELECTIONS

REF: LISBON 3497

1. WHILE ON CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON LAST JUNE, PAO DISCUSSED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL FOLLOWING APRIL 25 REVOLUTION WITH OLD FRIEND AND CONGRESSMAN, JOHN BRADEMAS (DEMOCRAT, INDIANA). DESIRABILITY OF STRENGTHENING HAND OF PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATS (LOWER CASE) WAS DISCUSSED. BRADEMAS SUGGESTED AGENCY AND/OR DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH CONSIDER SENDING TWO CONGRESSMEN WHO WIN RE-ELECTION IN NOVEMBER ON A TOUR OF SELECTED COUNTRIES IN EUROPE ON A KIND OF TRAVELING SEMINAR ON THE 1974 U.S. ELECTIONS.

2. BRADEMAS ENVISIONED SEMINAR HAVING THREE PARTS. THE FIRST PART WOULD BE A DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES IN THE CONGRESSMEN'S CAMPAIGNS (WATERGATE, THE ECONOMY, ETC.) THE SECOND WOULD BE DEVOTED TO "HOW WE DID IT". THE CONGRESSMEN WOULD GO INTO THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF ORGANIZING THE VOTE, GETTING OUT THE VOTE, PRINT AND ELECTRONIC JOURNALISM TECHNIQUES THAT WORKED AND WHY, AS WELL AS THOSE THAT DIDN'T WORK. THE THIRD SESSION WOULD BE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE, ISSUES BEFORE THE NATION, THAT SORT OF THING.

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3. BRADEMAS THINKS SUCH A SEMINAR WOULD HAVE APPEAL IN UK, GERMANY, FRANCE AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE. ALSO, THAT BY INCLUDING OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES PORTUGAL, EMBASSY LISBON COULD NOT CREDIBLY BE ACCUSED OF TRYING TO INTERFERE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. BRADEMAS SAID TWO-MAN TEAM SHOULD CONSIST OF ONE DEMOCRAT AND ONE REPUBLICAN. HE SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO TAKE PART IF HIS CALENDAR IS FREE OR RECOMMEND PARTICIPANTS IF IT ISN'T. EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINZ III FOR REPUBLICAN SIDE OF TEAM. HEINZ IS MARRIED TO A MOZAMBICANA AND, WE UNDERSTAND, SPEAKS PORTUGUESE. BRADEMAS-HEINZ TEAM PROPOSED SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO THEIR RE-ELECTION).

5. PORTUGAL'S REDISCOVERED ZEST FOR POLITICS, HER IMPORTANCE TO U.S. INTERESTS, AND LACK OF POLITICAL ORGANIZING EXPERTISE (EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE THE BEST ORGANIZED FORCE IN PORTUGUESE POLITICS AT THE MOMENT) ARGUE FOR CARRYING OUT THIS PROJECT. IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD PAY FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION, PERHAPS USIS POSTS IN EUROPE COULD WORK OUT A COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT ON EUROPEAN TRAVEL AND PER DIEM.

6. ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING THIS REQUEST CONTAINED REFTEL. REQUEST AGENCY CONSULT WITH DEPARTMENT AND THEIR BUDGETEERS AND IF PROJECT FUNDABLE, DISCUSS WITH CONGRESSMEN BRADEMAM AND HEINZ.
CONLEY

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